



For Immediate Release
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Vermont Unemployment Rate Declines to 3.0 percent in August

The Vermont Department of Labor announced today that the seasonally-adjusted statewide unemployment rate for August was 3.0 percent. This reflects a decline of one-tenth of one percentage point from the revised July rate (3.1 percent). The national rate in August was 4.4 percent. As of the prior month’s preliminary data, the Burlington-South Burlington Metropolitan NECTA was the sixteenth lowest unemployment rate in the country for all metropolitan areas at 2.6 percent (not-seasonally-adjusted). Overall, Vermont’s unemployment rate was tied for the seventh lowest in the country for the same time period.

Commissioner’s Message

“The Vermont labor market continues to be very tight. A prolonged economic expansion combined with demographic shifts in the Vermont workforce present a challenge to Vermont businesses seeking to attract and retain workers. Across the state, employers are reporting that they struggle to find talent. The Department of Labor is working with stakeholders and partner agencies to address this labor shortage and ensure that every Vermonter – regardless of age, experience or education – has an opportunity for meaningful employment in this state. Jobs are available across the spectrum of experience and education; our role is to connect hard-working Vermonters with businesses looking to hire. Staff at Vermont Department of Labor Career Resource Centers, located throughout the state, stand ready to assist employers seeking talent as well as any jobseeker looking to improve their economic prospects,” said Lindsay Kurrle, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Labor.

Chart 1. Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted

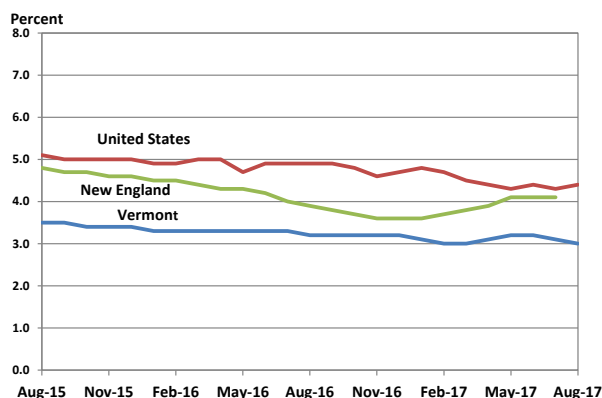
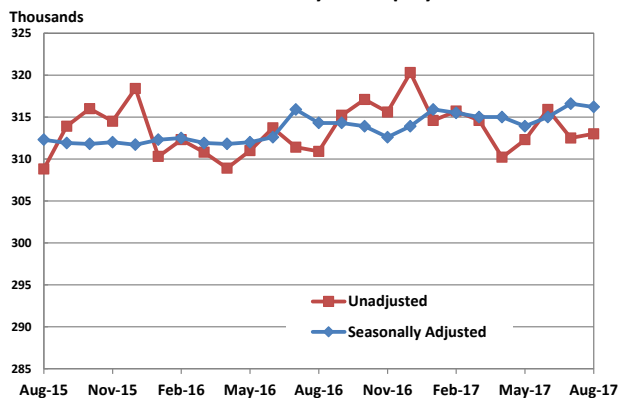


Chart 2. Vermont Nonfarm Payroll Employment



State of Vermont Overview

The Vermont seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate declined one-tenth of one percentage point in August to a statewide average of 3.0 percent. The comparable United States rate is 4.4 percent which experienced a one-tenth of one percentage point increase from the revised July estimate. The seasonally-adjusted Vermont data for August show the Vermont civilian labor force increased by 450 from the prior month's revised estimate. The number of employed increased by 650 and the number of unemployed decreased by 200. None of the changes were statistically significant in the seasonally-adjusted series.

The August unemployment rates for Vermont's 17 labor market areas ranged from 2.5 percent in White River Junction and Burlington – South Burlington to 4.8 percent in Derby (note: local labor market area unemployment rates are not seasonally-adjusted). For comparison, the August unadjusted unemployment rate for Vermont was 3.0 percent which reflects no change from the revised unadjusted July level and a decrease of one-tenth of one percentage point from a year ago.

Analysis of Job Changes by Industry

Not-Seasonally-Adjusted

The preliminary 'not-seasonally-adjusted' jobs estimates for August show an increase of 500 jobs when compared to the revised July numbers. There was a decrease of 100 jobs between the preliminary and the revised July estimates due to the inclusion of more data. The monthly increase seen in the August numbers was primarily attributable to seasonal movements in local government education. The broader economic trends can be detected by focusing on the over-the-year changes in this data series. As detailed in the preliminary 'not-seasonally-adjusted' August data, Total Private industries have increased by 2,400 jobs (0.9 percent) and Government (including public education) employment has decreased by 300 jobs (-0.6 percent) in the past year.

Seasonally-Adjusted

The seasonally-adjusted data for August reports a decrease of 400 jobs from the revised July data. As with the 'not-seasonally-adjusted' data, this over-the-month change is from the revised July numbers which experienced a decrease of 100 jobs from the preliminary estimates. The seasonally-adjusted over-the-month changes in August were mixed at the sector level. Those with a notable percent increase include: State Government (+400 jobs or +2.1%) and Other Services (+200 jobs or +1.9%). Sectors with a notable percent decrease include: Business and Professional Services (-800 jobs or -2.8%) and Manufacturing (-300 jobs or -1.0%).

The Unemployment and Jobs Report for September is scheduled to be released on Friday, October 20, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

Table 1. Vermont Labor Force Estimates, seasonally adjusted

	August 2017	July 2017	August 2016	Change From:	
				July 2017	August 2016
Civilian Labor Force	344,300	343,850	345,250	450	-950
Employed	333,850	333,200	334,050	650	-200
Unemployed	10,450	10,650	11,200	-200	-750
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.0	3.1	3.2	-0.1	-0.2

Vermont's labor force, employment and unemployment statistics are produced from a combination of a Statewide survey of households and statistical modeling. The data are produced by the Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS), a cooperative program with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/lau) and the Vermont Department of Labor (www.vtlmi.info/labforce).

Table 2. Vermont Labor Market Areas, Labor Force Estimates

not seasonally adjusted

Labor Market Area ¹	Civilian Labor Force	August 2017		Unemployment Rate ² (%)		
		Employed	Unemployed	Aug-17	Jul-17	Aug-16
Vermont Total	349,100	338,600	10,500	3.0	3.0	3.1
Barre-Montpelier	26,200	25,500	700	2.7	2.8	2.8
Bennington	11,300	10,800	500	4.4	4.5	4.1
Brattleboro	22,350	21,650	700	3.1	3.2	3.1
Burlington-South Burlington	126,850	123,600	3,250	2.5	2.6	2.7
Derby	12,800	12,200	600	4.8	4.4	4.4
Highgate	10,300	9,950	300	3.1	3.2	3.2
Manchester	11,650	11,250	400	3.3	3.2	3.5
Middlebury	19,150	18,550	600	3.2	3.1	3.3
Morristown-Waterbury	17,950	17,350	600	3.3	3.3	3.4
Newbury	2,950	2,850	100	3.0	3.0	2.9
Northfield-Waitsfield	6,850	6,650	200	3.2	3.6	3.5
Randolph	7,350	7,100	250	3.1	3.4	3.3
Rutland	21,600	20,900	750	3.4	3.6	3.7
Springfield	10,700	10,350	300	3.0	3.1	3.4
St. Johnsbury	13,600	13,100	500	3.7	3.7	3.9
White River Junction	20,550	20,000	500	2.5	2.4	2.6
Woodstock	3,950	3,800	150	3.2	3.4	3.3

¹The area names above are common language titles; for official names of areas including encompassing cities and towns please refer to the Vermont Labor Market Area map (<http://www.vtlmi.info/lmadef2015.pdf>).

²Rate is the unrounded estimates for the number of unemployed divided by total labor force, expressed as a

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS) produced by the Vermont Department of Labor (www.vtlmi.info/labforce.cfm) in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/lau).

Table 3. Vermont Nonfarm Payroll Employment, seasonally adjusted (thousands)

NAICS Industry	Aug-17	Jul-17	Aug-16	Change From:		% Change From:	
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Jul-17	Aug-16	Jul-17	Aug-16
Statewide, Total Nonfarm¹	316.2	316.6	314.3	-0.4	1.9	-0.1	0.6
Total Private	260.0	260.7	257.9	-0.7	2.1	-0.3	0.8
Mining, Logging and Construction	15.8	15.7	16.1	0.1	-0.3	0.6	-1.9
Mining & Logging	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.0	14.9	15.3	0.1	-0.3	0.7	-2.0
Manufacturing	28.5	28.8	29.8	-0.3	-1.3	-1.0	-4.4
Durable Goods	17.2	17.5	18.6	-0.3	-1.4	-1.7	-7.5
Non-Durable Goods	11.3	11.3	11.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.9
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	56.0	55.9	55.6	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.7
Wholesale Trade	9.5	9.5	9.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	38.1	38.0	38.1	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	8.4	8.4	8.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	5.0
Financial Activities	11.9	11.8	12.0	0.1	-0.1	0.8	-0.8
Finance & Insurance	8.9	8.8	9.0	0.1	-0.1	1.1	-1.1
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Professional and Business Services	27.9	28.7	28.0	-0.8	-0.1	-2.8	-0.4
Professional & Technical Services	14.3	14.6	14.4	-0.3	-0.1	-2.1	-0.7
Administrative & Waste Services	11.3	11.6	11.5	-0.3	-0.2	-2.6	-1.7
Education and Health Services	65.9	66.2	64.5	-0.3	1.4	-0.5	2.2
Private Educational Services	13.7	13.8	13.5	-0.1	0.2	-0.7	1.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	52.2	52.4	51.0	-0.2	1.2	-0.4	2.4
Leisure and Hospitality	38.6	38.4	36.8	0.2	1.8	0.5	4.9
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	5.3	5.2	4.4	0.1	0.9	1.9	20.5
Accommodation & Food Services	33.3	33.2	32.4	0.1	0.9	0.3	2.8
Other Services	11.0	10.8	10.5	0.2	0.5	1.9	4.8
Government	56.2	55.9	56.4	0.3	-0.2	0.5	-0.4
Federal	6.9	6.9	7.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-1.4
State	19.6	19.2	19.4	0.4	0.2	2.1	1.0
Local	29.7	29.8	30.0	-0.1	-0.3	-0.3	-1.0
Burlington-S. Burlington Metro (NECTA)	124.7	124.7	125.4	0.0	-0.7	0.0	-0.6
Total Nonfarm	124.7	124.7	125.4	0.0	-0.7	0.0	-0.6

¹Statewide Total Nonfarm is a summed total of major industries. The NAICS industry "Information" is not published seasonally adjusted because the seasonal component, which is small relative to the trend-cycle and irregular components, cannot be separated with sufficient precision.

Source: Current Employment Statistics Program (CES) produced by the Economic and Labor Market Information Division, Vermont Department of Labor (www.vtلمي.info/ces.cfm) in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/sae).

Estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. See Annual Summary for details.

Table 4. Vermont Nonfarm Payroll Employment, not seasonally adjusted

NAICS Industry	Aug-17	Jul-17	Aug-16	Change From:		% Change From:	
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Jul-17	Aug-16	Jul-17	Aug-16
TOTAL NONFARM	313,000	312,500	310,900	500	2,100	0.2	0.7
TOTAL PRIVATE	264,300	265,700	261,900	-1,400	2,400	-0.5	0.9
GOODS-PRODUCING	46,700	46,900	47,700	-200	-1,000	-0.4	-2.1
MINING, LOGGING AND CONSTRUCTION	17,700	17,700	17,700	0	0	0.0	0.0
Mining & Logging	900	900	900	0	0	0.0	0.0
Construction	16,800	16,800	16,800	0	0	0.0	0.0
MANUFACTURING	29,000	29,200	30,000	-200	-1,000	-0.7	-3.3
Durable Goods ¹	17,600	17,800	18,700	-200	-1,100	-1.1	-5.9
Non-Durable Goods	11,400	11,400	11,300	0	100	0.0	0.9
Food Mfg.	5,400	5,400	5,400	0	0	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PROVIDING	266,300	265,600	263,200	700	3,100	0.3	1.2
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES	56,100	56,100	55,700	0	400	0.0	0.7
Wholesale Trade	9,500	9,500	9,600	0	-100	0.0	-1.0
Retail Trade	38,300	38,400	38,500	-100	-200	-0.3	-0.5
Food & Beverage Stores	10,200	10,200	10,300	0	-100	0.0	-1.0
General Merchandise Stores	3,400	3,400	3,300	0	100	0.0	3.0
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	8,300	8,200	7,600	100	700	1.2	9.2
Transportation & Warehousing	7,100	7,000	6,300	100	800	1.4	12.7
Utilities	1,200	1,200	1,300	0	-100	0.0	-7.7
INFORMATION	4,400	4,400	4,600	0	-200	0.0	-4.3
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	12,000	12,000	12,200	0	-200	0.0	-1.6
Finance & Insurance	8,900	8,900	9,100	0	-200	0.0	-2.2
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	3,100	3,100	3,100	0	0	0.0	0.0
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	28,900	29,400	28,900	-500	0	-1.7	0.0
Professional & Technical Services	14,500	14,700	14,600	-200	-100	-1.4	-0.7
Administrative & Waste Services	12,200	12,300	12,200	-100	0	-0.8	0.0
EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES	65,200	66,400	64,000	-1,200	1,200	-1.8	1.9
Educational Services	12,800	13,400	12,700	-600	100	-4.5	0.8
Colleges and Universities	7,900	8,400	8,200	-500	-300	-6.0	-3.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	52,400	53,000	51,300	-600	1,100	-1.1	2.1
Ambulatory Health Care Services	17,300	17,500	17,200	-200	100	-1.1	0.6
Hospitals	14,400	14,400	13,900	0	500	0.0	3.6
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	7,600	7,600	7,600	0	0	0.0	0.0
Social Assistance	13,100	13,500	12,600	-400	500	-3.0	4.0
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	40,000	39,400	38,100	600	1,900	1.5	5.0
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	6,000	6,100	5,200	-100	800	-1.6	15.4
Accommodation & Food Services	34,000	33,300	32,900	700	1,100	2.1	3.3
Accommodation	11,800	11,600	11,700	200	100	1.7	0.9
Hotels & Motels	9,600	9,500	9,900	100	-300	1.1	-3.0
Food Services & Drinking Places	22,200	21,700	21,200	500	1,000	2.3	4.7
OTHER SERVICES	11,000	11,100	10,700	-100	300	-0.9	2.8
GOVERNMENT	48,700	46,800	49,000	1,900	-300	4.1	-0.6
Federal Government	6,900	6,900	7,000	0	-100	0.0	-1.4
State Government Education	7,700	7,300	7,600	400	100	5.5	1.3
Other State Government	10,100	10,100	10,100	0	0	0.0	0.0
Local Government Education	15,700	14,100	16,000	1,600	-300	11.3	-1.9
Other Local Government	8,300	8,400	8,300	-100	0	-1.2	0.0

Source: Current Employment Statistics Program (CES) produced by the Economic and Labor Market Information Division, Vermont Department of Labor (www.vtلمي.info/ces.cfm) in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/sae).

¹Publication of Computer & Electrical Equipment Mfg. and Fabricated Metal Products Mfg. has been discontinued as of January 2017.

Estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. See Annual Summary for details.